

Serial No. 09/399,694
Docket No. ST999037
Firm No. 0055.0009

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the election/restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 set forth in the June 15, 2005 Office Action, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement, but, as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.143, elect for continued prosecution the claims of Group I (claims 2, 3, 15, 16, 28, 29, 41, and 42). The non-elected groups are Group II (claims 6, 19, 32, and 45) and Group III (claims 7, 20, 33, and 46).

Applicants submit that the claims of Group I, Group II, and Group III are directed to embodiments of the same invention. In particular, claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 15, 16, 19, 20, 28, 29, 32, 33, 41, 42, 45, and 46 were originally dependent claims of method, system, article of manufacture, and memory device claims 1, 14, 27, and 40, respectively. In the January 14, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 15, 16, 19, 20, 28, 29, 32, 33, 41, 42, 45, and 46 would be allowable if put into independent form. Applicants, therefore, amended these claims to place them into independent form.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 15, 16, 19, 20, 28, 29, 32, 33, 41, 42, 45, and 46 are all directed to receiving at least one rule definition, wherein each rule definition indicates a find criteria, a replacement value, and an input data column in the input table, searching, for each rule definition, the input data column for any fields that match the find criteria, and, if the rule definition does not specify an output table, directly inserting, for each rule definition, the replacement value in the fields in the input data column that match the find criteria, wherein subsequent applications of additional rule definitions applied to the same input data column operate on replacement values inserted in the input data column in previously applied rule definitions. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 15, 16, 19, 20, 28, 29, 32, 33, 41, 42, 45, and 46 are directed to embodiments of the same invention and request withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

Examination on the merits is respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is earnestly solicited.

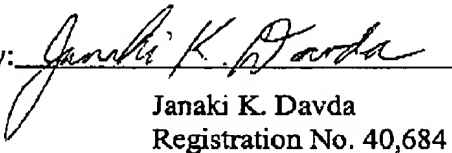
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Applicants would like to thank Examiner Pham for holding a telephone interview with their representative, Janaki K. Davda, on July 7, 2005. The restriction requirement was discussed. No agreement was reached.

Applicants have not added any claims. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0460.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact her at (310) 556-7983 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

Dated: July 12, 2005

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